

Message Text

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72

ACTION EA-14

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R 250903 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4132

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO JCS WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC CAMP H M SMITH HAWAII

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JAPAN

CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HAWAII

COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JAPAN

UNCLAS TOKYO 6529

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR JA

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT CONCERNING ALLEGED US NAVY- JDA
CONVERSATIONS ON JOINT PLANNING

1. ON MAY 24 JAPANESE LANGUAGE TOKYO SHIMBUN NEWSPAPER
CARRIED FRONT PAGE LEADING POSITION REPORT DESCRIBING ALLEGED
SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN JDA OFFICIALS AND US
NAVY AUTHORITIES, APPARENTLY IN WASHINGTON, INVOLVING
USG URGING TO JDA THAT US AND JAPANESE NAVIES
COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY IN PLANNING AND OTHER PREPARATIONS
FOR CONTINGENCY RESPONSES. PARTIAL TEXT OF TOKYO
SHIMBUN TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

ACCORDING TO A CLARIFICATION MADE BY THE JDA ON
MAY 23, US NAVY AUTHORITIES HAVE RECENTLY ASKED
JAPANESE DEFENSE OFFICIALS CONCERNED TO CLARIFY THE
SCOPE OF " SEA AREAS TO BE DEFENDED" BY THE MSDF IN
AN EMERGENCY. THIS REQUEST IS BASED ON THE VIEW THAT
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A CLDAR- CUT DISTINCTION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN TY MISSIONS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE MSDF AND THE US 7 TH FLEET IN JAPANESE WATERS IN WAR TIME, AND THAT THE ESCORT OF JAPANESE SHIPS IN SEA AREAS, WHICH ARE IN MSDF CHARGE, SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF JAPAN ITSELF. IN RESPONSE TO THIS, THE JAPANESE SIDE IS STUDYING THE PROBLEM OF ESTABLISHING SUCH SEA AREAS. HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE A LIMIT ON THE SCOPE OF THESE SEA AREAS, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE DEFENSE CAPABILITY OF THE MSDF WILL BE INCREASED TO ONLY 214,000 TONS OR SO BY THE TIME THE FOURTH DEFENSE PLAN (FOURTH DEFENSE POWER CONSOLIDATION PLAN) IS COMPLETED. THUS, THERE IS STRONG FEAR THAT IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET THE US SIDE' S REQUEST. THEREFORE, THE JDA IS RACKING ITS BRAINS AS TO COUNTERMEASURES. IT SEEMS, MOREOVER, THAT IF SUCH SEA AREAS ARE ESTABLISHED, THEN THE WAY OF US- JAPAN JOINT MARITIME DEFENSE, WHICH HAS HITHERTO BEEN LEFT VAGUE, WILL BECOME A PROBLEM, ONCE AGAIN. THE PROBLEM OF WHETHER THE US SIDE' S REQUEST SHOULD BE ACCEPTED, WILL PROBABLY BE LEFT TO A HIGH- LEVEL POLITICAL JUDGMENT, IN THE END.

ACCORDING TO A JDA SOURCE, THE FOLLOWING MATTERS CAN BE POINTED OUT, AS THE REASONS BEHIND THE FACT THAT THE US SIDE HAS SUBMITTED THIS REQUEST:

(1) ON THE BASIS OF THE NIXON DOCTRINE, THE US WILL

PROVIDE ITS NUCLEAR UMBRELLA TO ITS ALLIES, BUT THESE ALLIES SHOULD POSSESS THEIR OWN RESPECTIVE CONVENTIONAL WAR POTENTIAL; (2) IN PARTICULAR, JAPAN IS RELYING TOO HEAVILY ON THE US- JAPAN SECURITY TREATY, DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT HAS CAPABILITY, AS AN ECONOMIC BIG POWER, AND THEREFORE, IT IS LACKING IN AUTONOMOUS DEFENSE EFFORTS; AND (3) THE US 7 TH FLEET' S DEFENSE CAPABILITY IS RECENTLY DECREASING, AND IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE MSDF TO COMPLEMENT THIS DECREASE.

WHEN EXPLANATIONS, GIVEN BY THE SAME SOURCE,
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ARE CONSIDERED TOGETHER, THE US SIDE REPEATEDLY CONVEYED THE CONTENTS OF THIS REQUEST TO HIGH- RANKING JDA OFFICIALS, WHO VISITED THE US FROM LAST YEAR THROUGH THIS YEAR, AND EVEN AFTER THAT, IT HAS STILL BEEN URGING THE JDA TO GIVE A REPLY. THE US SIDE' S REQUEST HAS STILL NOT BEEN SUBMITTED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS; IT STILL REMAINS AN UNOFFICIAL REQUEST

MADE THROUGH TALKS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF DEFENSE AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE US SIDE'S STRONG ATTITUDE, THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PROBLEM WILL BE TAKEN UP, SOONER OR LATER, FOR EXAMPLE, AT POLITICAL- LEVEL TALKS, INCLUDING THE EIGHTH ROUND OF US- JAPAN ADMINISTRATIVE- LEVEL CONSULTATIONS ON THE SECURITY TREATY, WHICH WILL BE HELD IN TOKYO ON MAY 29 AND 30.

END TEXT

2. EMBASSY TOKYO WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENT FROM ADDRESSEES AS TO VALIDITY OF ASSERTIONS MADE IN ARTICLE AND ANY BACKGROUND FOR EMBASSY USE.
INGERSOLL

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